

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

COMPONENTS IN JEOPARDY

In 2008, Kentucky's "Public Safety First" initiative was launched with the proclamation:

"When times are difficult, our government cannot turn away from the most basic role of protecting the public."

**URGENT: CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY!!!
SPECIAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 24**



VITAL SERVICES TO HELP ASSURE VICTIM SAFETY

When the governor calls a special legislative session in the coming weeks, the legislative budget conference committee will have some very tough decisions that could have a detrimental impact on law enforcement and crime victims. Without immediate committee action, several existing programs under the single initiative, Public Safety First, will be terminated.

Some of these nationally recognized programs began here in Kentucky. Imagine Kentucky being one of the first to eliminate them.

Individuals and organizations need to contact key legislative leaders and let them know that the Public Safety First program must have a specific funding directive for \$1,167,000 per year in the Justice Cabinet's final budget. Without this language these programs will soon end.

Any contact you make could mean the difference between these vital law enforcement and victim services being turned off as early as July 1st.

VINE Court Notification – This statewide program keeps victims informed via telephone and email about when they need to be in court to participate in the case against their offender.

VINE Protective Order – This statewide program is used to rapidly alert victims of domestic violence when their protective order is served against their offender. This is one of the most at risk moments for all domestic violence victims.

- VINE Protective Order and VINE Court Notification are programs that have been in Kentucky for a number of years.
- There are currently more than 47,000 Kentucky victims registered and using VINE notification services.

- In 2009 the VINE programs made nearly 600,000 telephone notifications and more than 53,000 email notification to victims. These alerts provided them with critical information about their offender, their court case, or the status of their domestic violence protective order.
- Often the information provided by these services is helping victims create safety plans, and gain control back over their lives.

KEEP THESE PROGRAMS GOING!

Contact your state legislator or representative and let them know that their "Public Safety First" promise should mean something. Keep these programs available to the public.

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